

**2005-06 San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury Implementation Review  
FOLLOW-UP TO 2003-04 GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS**

<b>El Paso De Robles Youth Correctional Facility</b>		
<b>2003-04 Grand Jury Recommendation</b>	<b>Agency Response</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
Recommendation #1. The El Paso de Robles Youth Authority should take advantage of available services to properly dispose of expired medications	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation has been implemented.
Recommendation #2. Pharmaceuticals should be ordered on an as-needed basis and should be expeditiously inventoried and stored	Through consultation with the Department's Chief Medical Officer and Health Care Services division, pharmacy-staffing adjustments have been made and the problem has been remedied.	Recommendation has been implemented.

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**Grover Beach Police Department - Vehicular Manslaughter Case**

2003-04 Grand Jury Recommendation	Agency Response	Current Status
<b>PART I – Grover Beach Police Department Investigates</b>		
Recommendation #1. The GBPD should make every reasonable effort to train additional field personnel so that citations may be written at the scene, when appropriate.	All field personnel have been sent to a 40 hour traffic school that enables them to write a citation at a traffic collision scene if appropriate.	N/A
Recommendation #2. In future cases involving death or serious injury, the GBPD should routinely follow up and inquire of the DA as to the status of the case.	This is the first time this has occurred. The DA's office has set up a monitoring system so it will not occur again. Traffic cases often take considerable time to reach a filing state because of their complexity. Our traffic unit will monitor such cases in the future and will make inquiries after a month.	Recommendation was implemented.

<b>PART II – District Attorney’s Office Processing &amp; Victim Witness Handling of the Case</b> <b>Section A – “What went on in the District Attorney’s Office?”</b>		
Recommendation #1 - The DA’s Office should track all cases, starting from the time a file comes to the office, rather than when the deputy files it. [The new <i>Pending Cases (neither filed or rejected)</i> does this tracking now.]	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation was implemented.
Recommendation #2 - Encourage Deputy DAs to seek input of each other and of their superiors regarding problematic and difficult cases.	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation was implemented.
Recommendation 3 - The Grand Jury recognizes that this is a small county and therefore many people in county government know each other. This makes it even more imperative that the DA's Office identifies conflicts early on in their handling of criminal cases.	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation was implemented.
Recommendation 4 - The DA’s Office should substantiate claims of conflict of interest more carefully before referring cases elsewhere.	The recommendation will be partially implemented.	<p>Recommendation 4 of Section A of Part II of the report of the Grand Jury of 2003-04 has been implemented.</p> <p>A Departmental memo was issued to all staff entitled "Early Recognition of Potential Conflicts of Interest". Management staff confer before contacting the Office of the Attorney General to</p>

		<p>discuss potential conflicts of interest. The Assistant District Attorney and Chief Deputy District Attorney contact the Attorney General where the likelihood of a conflict of interest exists, and only after careful consultation between the Attorney General and the District Attorney is a determination reached as to the appropriate prosecution agency.</p>
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<b>PART II – District Attorney’s Office Processing &amp; Victim Witness Handling of the Case</b> <b>Section B – “How could ‘shelving’ of the file in the DA’s Office go unnoticed for six months?”</b>		
Recommendation 1 - The Chief Deputy should periodically evaluate the computer programs designed and implemented for tracking high misdemeanor (red dot) cases and the new pending cases, now that such tracking is available.	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation was implemented.
Recommendation 2 - The Chief Deputy DA should exercise closer control/oversight of deputies' caseloads to monitor status of cases.	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation was implemented.
Recommendation 3 - Management should take a more assertive role in supervising employees of the DA's Office and take corrective action when needed.	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation was implemented.
<b>PART II – District Attorney’s Office Processing &amp; Victim Witness Handling of the Case</b> <b>Section C – “How could the Victim Witness Office better assist the family?”</b>		
Recommendation 1 - The director should schedule regular VW Division meetings for discussion of current cases among all advocates.	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation was implemented.

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**San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services (DSS)**

<b>2003-04 Grand Jury Recommendation</b>	<b>Agency Response</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
<b>PART I: Child Welfare Services (CWS) &amp; Suspected Child Abuse Reports (SCARs)</b>		
Recommendation #1. CWS should ensure an immediate phone call is made to the appropriate law enforcement agency when it receives a report of child abuse or severe neglect.	This requires further analysis.	The Department follows a standard protocol for cross-reporting that has been established by the State and has been accepted by the County's various law enforcement jurisdictions.
Recommendation #2. CWS should ensure that SCARs are distributed to the appropriate law enforcement agency and the district attorney. The CWS Desk Guides and internal procedures should be corrected to reflect this.	The recommendation has been implemented in part.	The Department follows a standard protocol for cross-reporting that has been established by the State and has been accepted by the County's various law enforcement jurisdictions. A Desk Guide was adopted on 10/8/04.
Recommendation #3. CWS should complete and forward a written SCAR to the appropriate agencies within 36 hours.	The recommendation requires further analysis.	The Department follows a standard protocol for cross-reporting that has been established by the State and has been accepted by the County's various law enforcement jurisdictions.
Recommendation #4. The law enforcement copy of a SCAR should be forwarded to the correct law enforcement agency.	The recommendation requires further analysis.	The Department follows a standard protocol for cross-reporting that has been established by the State and has been accepted by the County's various law enforcement jurisdictions.

Recommendation # 5. CWS should attach the appropriate copy of the original SCAR form to CWS/CMS Scar forms they distribute to law enforcement and the district attorney.	The recommendation requires further analysis.	The Department follows a standard protocol for cross-reporting that has been established by the State and has been accepted by the County's various law enforcement jurisdictions. Cross-reporting is computerized to ensure legibility and consistency.
Recommendation # 6. CWS should notify mandated reporters of the outcome of the SCARs that they submitted.	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation has been implemented.
Recommendation #7. CWS should take a leadership role in promoting training for mandated reporters.	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation has been implemented.
Recommendation #8. CWS should review agreements on SCAR reporting with all law enforcement agencies within the county to ensure consistent practices and coordination on a regular basis.	The recommendation requires further analysis.	The Department follows a standard protocol for cross-reporting that has been established by the State and has been accepted by the County's various law enforcement jurisdictions. Cross-reporting is computerized to ensure legibility and consistency.
Recommendation #9. County inter-office mail should not be used for delivery of time-sensitive information.	The recommendation will not be implemented.	N/A
<b>PART II: CWS Placement Cases and Issues</b>		
Recommendation #1. CWS should ensure that the positions and documentation from other agencies and professionals who are working with the children are represented in the reports and recommendations that	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation has been implemented.

are submitted to the court regarding those children.		
Recommendation #2. CWS should proactively cooperate with other agencies and professionals working with a child in developing placement plans for the child.	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation has been implemented.
Recommendation #3. The issues and concerns highlighted in multi-agency meetings and discussions regarding children should be represented in documents submitted to the court.	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation has been implemented.
Recommendation #4. CWS social workers should receive basic training in working with developmentally disabled children, including assessment and communication skills.	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation has been implemented.
Recommendation #5. CWS social workers who are interviewing a developmentally disabled child should involve those who are familiar with and have rapport with the child in the interview.	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation has been implemented.
Recommendation #6. A CWS policy should state that the placement of remaining children in a foster home should be re-evaluated when physical harm to a child has occurred in that home	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation has been implemented.
Recommendation #7. CWS should evaluate its use of emergency care shelters in the county to assure that they are being effectively utilized for	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation has been implemented.



their intended purpose.		
Recommendation #8.CWS should provide the names and office information of attorneys appointed to represent children in Juvenile Court to mandated reporters who are actively working with the children.	The recommendation will not be implemented.	N/A
Recommendation #9. Professionals who directly involved with children who are the subjects of CWS and/or Juvenile Court cases should be included under the umbrella of confidentiality in order to receive information that would help them in serving the children	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation was implemented.
<b>Part III: DSS/CWS Organizational Issues</b>		
Recommendation #1. Upper management at CWS should accept responsibility for the dysfunctional work environment at CWS and commit to creating a more worker-friendly professional organization.	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation was implemented.
Recommendation #2. All CWS supervisors and managers should receive training in practices designed to encourage open and trusting communication.	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation was implemented.
Recommendation #3. CWS management should develop and implement practices that will create positive performance feedback and	The recommendation has been implemented in part, and requires further analysis for complete implementation.	The Department has been engaged in revising its Performance Evaluations so that they more accurately reflect performance expectations, plans for meeting expectations

incentives, and reverse the environment of fear and reprisal.		and success in meeting previously-established expectations.
Recommendation # 4 All CWS supervisors and managers should receive training in practices designed to bring about a change in organizational culture that will be conducive to implementing requirements of the Redesign.	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation was implemented.
Recommendation #5. CWS social workers should be provided training in coping with stressful workplaces and the stress related to organizational change	The recommendation requires further analysis.	The Department contracts with Creative Mediation in order to provide additional resources to staff members who are having difficulty coping with organizational changes.
Recommendation #6. CWS management and employees should participate together in training, facilitated by an independent professional trainer, designed to constructively confront the distrust in the workplace and begin a process of team building.	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation was implemented.
Recommendation # 7 Information that is part of a professional knowledge base, such as recognized psychiatric diagnoses, should be available and discussions encouraged at CWS.	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation was implemented.

Management should not remove or disallow this information or curtail discussions.		
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Recommendation # 8. CWS should reallocate its training resources to include the following areas for social workers: relevant field training for new social workers, Continuing training for all social workers on an annual basis, training in team participation and team management for social workers and community resources identification, coordination and utilization.	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation was implemented.
Recommendation # 9. Social workers should be involved in discussions of procedures, grant applications and programs that will impact their work and/or resources available to them.	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation was implemented.
Recommendation #10. Social workers assigned to a case should be involved in management decisions that alter any notes, reports or recommendations on that case.	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation was implemented.
Recommendation #11. DSS should develop a protocol that defines appropriate managerial and supervisor use of the CWS/CMS system and information. It should specify that violations of the protocol are grounds for disciplinary action. The protocol should be developed with input from line social workers and should be disseminated throughout CWS when it is complete.	Concur with Grand Jury.	Recommendation was implemented.

Recommendation #12. CWS management should engage social workers in discussions of the appropriate use of group home placements and the assessment of the need for group homes for children in the CWS system. These discussions should include consideration of reinstating some group homes in the county.	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted and it is not reasonable.	N/A
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**San Luis Obispo County Public Works**

2003-04 Grand Jury Recommendation	Agency Response	Current Status
<p>Recommendation #1. The GJ recommends that the County Board of Supervisors establish citizens' committee to meet with the appropriate congressional representatives to obtain their assistance in directing the Corps of Engineers to immediately undertake a flood control remediation project to resolve the Arroyo Grande Creek channel flooding problems.</p>	<p>The recommendation will not be implemented because, while the recommendation is well-intended, it is neither reasonable, nor warranted. The fallacies in the report recommendation are (1) the Corps has no program or funding for taking over local flood control project maintenance; and (2) elected representatives have no authority to direct the actions of any federal agency. <i>(See full text of response on grand jury web site.)</i></p>	<p>N/A</p>